S: Davies G-S (1894-1900) 1909 AP16 Southwest China AP16

ing for a railway with the sanction of the Chinese Government.

Passing Sung-lin, a village of two hundred houses with a mud wall round it, we took two days to reach Pan-ch'iao at the southern end of the Hsüan-wei plain. The country is undulating, and one passes through a series of little cultivated plateaus, with low rocky hills rising out of them, and most of them without any running water. This part of Yün-nan is full of coal and hardly anything else is used as fuel. It is sold for 200 cash a cartload, which I calculate to be at about the rate of three shillings a ton.

On the 14th April I reached Hsüan-wei Chou, and found Watts-Jones there, established in a temple just inside the south gate. Here we were in telegraphic communication with the world again. Pottinger had arrived at Pi-chieh and hoped to meet us at Wei-ning Chou. We were very sorry to learn that Mr Tucker, who formed one of Pottinger's party, had returned to Ch'ung-k'ing suffering from pleurisy, and had died there of heart failure.

Hsüan-wei is a town of 800 houses and has two walls round it, one inside the other. The plain in which it stands is a poor one, but the whole country round is full of coal mines which, with better means of communication, might be extensively worked. Hsüan-wei is famous for its hams, which are excellent. Chinese hams vary very much. The best ones are very good, and this is the only form in which I ever ate pig in China.

After halting a day at Hsüan-wei, we left again on the 16th April, and soon found ourselves in a more hilly country. In these parts the Chinese are in the habit of shouting out *yang kuei-tzŭ*, "foreign devil," an expression one does not hear very often in most parts of Yün-nan. In Hsüan-wei we had heard the little boys shouting it out as we walked about the town, but they took care to keep at a distance, and the Chinamen nearest us always wore a look of almost too complete innocence.

However our time for retaliation soon arrived. The day we left Hsüan-wei, Watts-Jones and I had walked on a little ahead and passed five or six Chinamen sitting by the roadside. Directly we had passed, we heard shouts of "yang kuei-tzŭ." We turned back at once and our